

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 94

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHIELDS.

Pre-filed December 5, 2000, and 1000 copies ordered printed.

ANNE C. WALKER, Chief Clerk

0038L.011

AN ACT

To amend chapter 160, RSMo, relating to schools by adding thereto one new section relating to the same subject.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 160, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 160.341, to read as follows:

160.341. 1. The department of elementary and secondary education, with the cooperation of the Missouri veterans' commission, shall develop and administer a program to be known as "Operation Recognition". The purpose of the program is to award honorary high school diplomas to World War II veterans who left high school prior to graduation to enter United States military service. The department and commission shall jointly develop an application procedure, distribute applications and publicize the program to school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, veterans' organizations, and state, regional and local media.

2. All honorably discharged World War II veterans who are residents or former residents of the state of Missouri, who served in the United States military between September 16, 1940, and December 31, 1946, and who did not return to school and complete their education after the war shall be eligible to receive a diploma. Diplomas may be issued posthumously.

3. Upon approval of an application, the department shall issue an honorary high school diploma for an eligible veteran. The diploma shall indicate the veteran's school of attendance. The department and commission shall work together to provide school districts, schools, communities and veterans' organizations with information about hosting

18 **a diploma ceremony on or around Veterans Day. The diploma shall be mailed to the**
19 **veteran or, if the veteran is deceased, to the veteran's family.**